

CLAIMS

1. The use of a highly water-soluble sugar in an aqueous solution of citric acid as a binder for the granulation of tablet excipients to reduce the sticking of the tablet excipients when subject to compression.

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2. The use as claimed in Claim 1 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono-, di, tri or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerisation of less than 20, preferably less than 10.

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3. The use as claimed in Claim 2 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.

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4. The use as claimed in Claim 3 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.

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5. The use as claimed in any preceding claim in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.

6. The use as claimed in Claim 5 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, preferably 5:10 to 10:5.

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7. The use as claimed in any preceding claim in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.
8. A composition for compressing into tablets comprising granules of tablet excipients in which the granules comprise citric acid and highly water-soluble sugar as binder.
9. A composition as claimed in Claim 8 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono, di, tri or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerisation of less than 20, preferably less than 10.
10. A composition as claimed in Claim 9 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.
11. A composition as claimed in Claim 10 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.
12. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 8 to 11 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.

13. A composition as claimed in Claim 12 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, preferably 5:10 to 10:5.

14. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 8 to 13 in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.

15. A tablet comprising granules of tablet excipient in which said granules comprise citric acid and highly water-soluble sugar as binder.

16. A tablet as claimed in Claim 15 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono-, di, tri- or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerisation of less than 20, preferably less than 10.

17. A tablet as claimed in Claim 16 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.

18. A tablet as claimed in Claim 17 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.

19. A tablet as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 18 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.
20. A tablet as claimed in Claim 19 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, preferably 5:10 to 10:5.
21. A tablet as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 20 in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.
22. A method of making a tablet comprising the steps of:
- (i) granulating tablet excipients using an aqueous solution of citric acid and a highly water-soluble sugar as a binder,
 - (ii) drying the granules and optionally reducing the size of the dried granules,
 - (iii) compressing said dried granules, optionally with additional tablet excipients in a tablet press to form a tablet, wherein the presence of said highly water-soluble sugar acts as a lubricant/anti-adherent in the tablet press.
23. A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 22 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono-, di, tri or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerisation of less than 20, preferably less than 10.

24. A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 23 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.

25. A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 24 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.

26. A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claims 22 to 25 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.

27. A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 26 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, preferably 5:10 to 10:5.

28. A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claims 22 to 27 in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.